

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Szewczyk for reconsidering and withdrawing the finality of the earlier Official Action.

By this Amendment, Claim 7 is canceled and new independent Claim 21 is presented for consideration.

The claims currently under consideration are Claims 1-6 and 8-21. Claims 1 and 21 are the only independent claims.

The most recent Official Action sets forth a rejection of independent Claim 1 based on the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 5,507,852 to Frank et al. (Frank) in view of the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 2,921,411 to Black.

As explained previously, Frank discloses a quench arrangement comprised of a plurality of spaced apart longitudinally extending nozzle assemblies 52. The nozzle assemblies 52 are spaced apart in the direction of conveyance of the glass sheet. Each of the nozzle assemblies 52 includes an air supply conduit 55 connected to a pair of chambers 48, 50 located at opposite ends of the nozzle assemblies 52 as shown in Fig. 2. The chambers 48, 50 are connected to respective air supply ducts 54, 56 that supply air to the chambers.

One difference between the bent glass sheet tempering apparatus at issue here relative to the apparatus disclosed in Frank is the way in which the apparatus here is configured to facilitate cullet removal. The present application describes, in the paragraph beginning in line 30 of page four 4 and in the paragraph beginning at line 27 of page ten, and also illustrates in Fig. 4 for example, that adjacent pairs of

plenums 22 are connected by connecting surfaces 26. These connecting surfaces 26 extend from the centerline 17 of the apparatus and are inclined in a downward direction away from the centerline 17.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to define that successive plenums of the lower blasthead are connected to each other by connecting surfaces positioned between and connected to the successive plenums, with the connecting surfaces being inclined downwards away from the apparatus centerline. The claimed connecting surfaces, and their arrangement and positioning, is not disclosed in Frank or Black.

The discussion in the second paragraph on page four of the Official Action states that Frank discloses connecting surfaces 48, 148, 248, 348, 448 that are the same as the connecting surfaces forming a part of the bent glass sheet tempering apparatus at issue here. That interpretation is incorrect. The features identified by reference numerals, 48, 148, 248, 348, 448 are chambers located at one end of the nozzle assemblies 52 at a position laterally outward from the nozzle assemblies 52 as discussed beginning in line 41 of column three of Frank. The chambers 48 are not connecting surfaces that connect successive plenums, and the chambers 48 are not connecting surfaces that are inclined downwards away from the centerline of the apparatus. By way of illustration, attached is a copy of Fig. 2 of Frank generally illustrating the centerline of the apparatus. It is apparent from this illustration that that the chambers 48 not only do not connect together successive ones of the nozzle assemblies 52, but the chambers 48 are not inclined downwards away from the centerline.

In addition, Black does not disclose providing connecting surfaces between successive plenums in the manner recited in independent Claim 1.

It is thus respectfully submitted that insufficient findings of fact have been presented to support an obviousness rejection of independent Claim 1 here. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

New independent Claim 21 is allowable because it too recites that the bent glass sheet tempering apparatus comprises, in combination with the other features, two first plenums positioned adjacent one another in spaced apart relation and two second plenums positioned adjacent one another in spaced apart relation, with a gap between the adjacent plenums, and further including first and second connecting surfaces positioned in each gap and arranged in the claimed manner to facilitate cullet removal. Neither Frank nor Black, nor any of the other cited references, discloses the claimed arrangement of connecting surfaces between adjacent pairs of plenums as set forth in Claim 21. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claim 21 is also allowable.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent Claim 1. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing aspects of the bent glass sheet tempering apparatus recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time. Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments at a later time.

Early and favorable action concerning this application is respectfully requested.

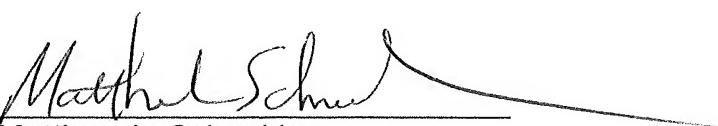
Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: September 13, 2010

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